

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

DOUGLAS ALBERT,

Plaintiff

v.

MICHAEL THOMAS, et al

Defendants

C.A. No. 05-30008-MAP

**ANSWER OF DEFENDANT JOSEPH BRUNELLE TO PLAINTIFF'S
COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

JURISDICTION

1. The "jurisdiction" section of the complaint is a preface to the allegations set forth therein, not requiring a response by the defendant. To the extent a response is required, the allegations set forth therein against the defendant are denied.
2. The "jurisdiction" section of the complaint is a preface to the allegations set forth therein, not requiring a response by the defendant. To the extent a response is required, the allegations set forth therein against the defendant are denied.

PARTIES

3. The defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph three of the complaint.
4. The defendant admits the allegations in paragraph four of the complaint.
5. The defendant admits the allegations in paragraph five of the complaint.
6. The defendant admits the City of Chicopee is a duly established municipality but is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of paragraph six of the complaint.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

7. The defendant admits the allegations in paragraph seven of the complaint.
8. The defendant admits the allegations in paragraph eight of the complaint.
9. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph nine of the complaint.
10. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph ten of the complaint.
11. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph eleven of the complaint.
12. The defendant admits he attended the police academy and received training concerning constitutional issues but denies the remaining allegations in paragraph twelve of the complaint.
13. The defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph thirteen of the complaint.
14. The defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph fourteen of the complaint.
15. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph fifteen of the complaint.
16. The defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph sixteen of the complaint.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I: CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE CIVIL RIGHTS 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983 AND 1985

17. The defendant repeats his answers to paragraphs one through sixteen as if fully set forth herein.
18. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph eighteen of the complaint.

19. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph nineteen of the complaint.

COUNT II: INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

20. The defendant repeats his answers to paragraphs one through nineteen as if fully set forth herein.
21. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-one of the complaint.
22. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-two of the complaint.

**COUNT III: UNCONSTITUTIONAL POLICY OR
CUSTOM/GROSS NEGLIGENCE**

23. The defendant repeats his answers to paragraphs one through twenty-two as if fully set forth herein.
24. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-four of the complaint.
25. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-five of the complaint.
26. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-six of the complaint.
27. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-seven of the complaint.
28. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-eight of the complaint..
29. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph twenty-nine of the complaint.

**COUNT IV: NEGLIGENCE/MASSACHUSETTS TORT CLAIM
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 258**

30. The defendant repeats his answers to paragraphs one through twenty-nine as if fully set forth herein.
31. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-one of the complaint.
32. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-two of the complaint.
33. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-three of the complaint.

**COUNT V: VIOLATION OF MASSACHUSETTS CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
M.G.L. c12, SECTIONS 11I, ET SEQ.**

- 34. The defendant repeats his answers to paragraphs one through thirty-three as if fully set forth herein.
- 35. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-five of the complaint.
- 36. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-six of the complaint.
- 37. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-seven of the complaint.

COUNT VI: ASSAULT AND BATTERY

- 38. The defendant repeats his answers to paragraphs one through thirty-seven as if fully set forth herein.
- 39. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph thirty-nine of the complaint.
- 40. The defendant denies the allegations in paragraph forty of the complaint.

First Affirmative Defense

The plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Second Affirmative Defense

The plaintiff has failed to commence this action within the appropriate statute of limitations.

Third Affirmative Defense

The defendant's actions were justified.

Fourth Affirmative Defense

The plaintiff is barred from recovery by collateral estoppel.

Fifth Affirmative Defense

The defendant acted out of necessity.

Sixth Affirmative Defense

The defendant acted in good faith and with probable cause.

Seventh Affirmative Defense

The defendant has qualified immunity.

Eighth Affirmative Defense

The defendant is immune from suit.

Ninth Affirmative Defense

The defendant acted within the scope of his employment and is thus immune from suit.

Tenth Affirmative Defense

The defendant acted in good faith reliance on legislative or statutory authority.

Eleventh Affirmative Defense

The alleged injuries were caused in whole or in part by the plaintiff's own negligence so that any recovery should be reduced in proportion to that negligence.

Twelfth Affirmative Defense

The alleged injuries were caused in whole or in part by the plaintiff's own negligence and that negligence was equal to or greater than that of the defendant so that recovery is barred.

WHEREFORE the defendant request this Honorable Court to enter judgment in his favor and award him his costs.

THE DEFENDANT DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL ISSUES.

Joseph Brunelle,
By his attorney,

/s/ Austin M. Joyce

Austin M. Joyce,
REARDON, JOYCE & AKERSON, P.C.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Austin M. Joyce, hereby certify that I have on this 4th day of February, 2005 mailed a copy of the enclosed Answer of Defendant Joseph Brunelle to Plaintiff's Complaint and Jury Demand via, first class, postage prepaid to:

Robert H. Astor, Esq.
1145 Main Street, Suite 403
Springfield, MA 01103

/s/ Austin M. Joyce

Austin M. Joyce, Esq.